

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: COMMON FUND: REPORT ON THE ASEAN DISCUSSIONS

1) THE COMMON FUND WAS A FEATURED TOPIC OF DISCUSSION
AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETINGS BETWEEN THE US AND ASEAN
ON AUGUST 3 AND 4 IN WASHINGTON. BECAUSE OF THE PUBLIC
ATTENTION THE ISSUE IS RECEIVING, WE ARE PROVIDING AN
EARLY REPORT ON THE MAIN POINTS COVERED. REPORTS ON OTHER
ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTELS.

2) ASEAN REPRESENTATIVES GAVE HIGH PRIORITY TO THE
COMMON FUND ISSUE AT THE US ASEAN TALKS. SECRETARIES
VANCE AND BLUMENTHAL CONFIRMED TO THEM THE US COMMITMENT
TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESS-
FUL EARLY CONCLUSION. SECRETARY VANCE SAID "I FEEL IT IS
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OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT WE MAKE PROGRESS IN THE COMMON
FUND NEGOTIATIONS. I BELIEVE THIS CAN BE DONE AND I
BELIEVE THAT ALL OF US SHOULD DEVOTE OUR FULL ATTENTION
TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT SOMETHING CAN'T BE ACCOMPLISHED
ON THIS BECAUSE I THINK IT HAS A SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE AS
WELL AS A PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE." SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL

ADDED "AT THE BONN SUMMIT WE JOINED WITH THE OTHER
COUNTRIES THERE PRESENT IN PLEDGING OURSELVES TO REDOUBLE

OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT EARLY AGREEMENT...(ON A
COMMON FUND). THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS FULLY
COMMITTED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REALIZE THAT GOAL."
WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER MET WITH THE ASEAN MINISTERS HE
EMPHASIZED US UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS
ISSUE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. UNDER SECRETARY COOPER LED DISCUSSIONS OF A NUMBER
OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES INVOLVES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
HE NOTED THAT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS
HAD BEEN USEFUL IN NARROWING THE AREAS OF DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE GROUP OF 77 AND GROUP B. HE SAID, HOWEVER,
THAT FURTHER PROGRESS IS NEEDED ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE
CAPITAL STRUCTURE FOR THE FIRST WINDOW OF THE FUND, THE
ROLE OF THE SECOND WINDOW, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
BOTH WINDOWS AND THE FUNDS DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE.
HE SAID THAT WITH A WILLINGNESS BY ALL PARTIES TO MOVE, A
SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME BY THE END OF THE YEAR MIGHT BE POSSI-
BLE.

4. POSTS RECEIVING INQUIRIES FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS SHOULD
ADVISE THAT U.S. CABINET OFFICERS CONFIRMED TO ASEAN
MINISTERS OUR DESIRE TO BUILD ON THE COMMITMENT MADE AT
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THE BONN SUMMIT REGARDING THE URGENCY AND THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE MATTER. WHILE THIS MEETING DID NOT BREAK NEW
SUBSTANTIVE GROUND IT GAVE FURTHER MOMENTUM TO OUR EFFORTS
TO WORK WITH LDC'S TOWARD SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.
US IS INTERNALLY REVIEWING HOW BEST TO APPROACH RESUMP-
TION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND LOOKS FORWARD TO EARLY EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS WITH GROUP B GOVERNMENTS. IN US VIEW PROGRESS
TOWARD SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WILL REQUIRE MOVEMENT FROM
BOTH SIDES. - - -

CHRISTOPHER

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